

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

**In the Claims**

- 1-8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having:
  - (a) a molecular weight of about 55 kDa;
  - (b) functional activity as a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent; and
  - (c) an amino acid sequence comprising ~~one or more of the following~~:
    - i) ~~SEQ ID NO:1;~~
    - ii) ~~SEQ ID NO:2;~~
    - iii) ~~SEQ ID NO:3;~~
    - iv) ~~SEQ ID NO:4; or~~
    - v) ~~SEQ ID NO:5.~~
10. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide with the function of a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent, selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 ~~or a functionally equivalent variant of the polypeptide;~~
  - (b) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;
  - (c) a polynucleotide that is complementary to a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions with one of the polynucleotides mentioned under (a) or (b) ~~or is complementary thereto;~~ and
  - (d) a polynucleotide whose nucleotide sequence deviates from the sequence of the polynucleotide mentioned under (a), (b) or (c) owing to the degeneracy of the genetic code.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the polynucleotide as claimed in any of claims 9, 10 or 25.

13. (Previously presented) A host cell which expresses a polynucleotide as claimed in any of claims 9, 10 or 25.

14-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is obtainable from the haemolymph of *Perna canaliculus*, wherein the polypeptide forms a single major band with a molecular weight of ~~has an apparent molecular weight of~~ 75 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis of a band having a density of 1.368 g/cc or 1.390 g/cc after CsCl density gradient centrifugation of whole extracts of *Perna canaliculus*, and wherein the polypeptide has functional activity as a serine protease inhibitor or a divalent cation binding agent.